

President Obama Issues Major Disaster Declaration for State of Connecticut

President Obama issued a major disaster declaration for the State of Connecticut, triggering the release of Federal funds to help communities recover from Winter Storm Alfred . Details of the disaster declaration and assistance programs are as follows:

Declaration Number: FEMA-3342-EM

Incident Period: October 29-30, 2011

Designated Counties: Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, Tolland and Windham Counties.

Types of Assistance: The Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is authorized to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of catastrophe in the designated areas. Specifically, FEMA is authorized to provide emergency protective measures (Category B), limited to direct federal assistance, under Public Assistance program at 75 percent federal funding.

Debris removal and emergency protective measures (Category A & B), including direct federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program for a period of 72 hours, such period to be selected by the state, are authorized for all eight counties in the State of Connecticut.

Other: Additional designations may be made at a later date after if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further evaluation.

CL&P Assistance Fund

Northeast Utilities Chairman, Charles W. Shivery, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Northeast Utilities (NU) announced a series of initiatives designed to offer relief to customers severely impacted by the October nor'easter and enhance future storm restoration response. "This storm disrupted the lives of more than 830,000 CL&P customers," said Shivery." I understand the hardship that this has caused, and I realize that we did not meet the goals that we set for ourselves and upon which many of our customers relied, and for that I apologize."

Mr. Shivery has offered Governor Dannel Malloy \$10 million from NU and the Northeast Utilities Foundation to establish a fund to directly assist CL&P residential customers who experienced losses as a result of the recent natural disaster. NU employees and Connecticut residents and businesses will be able to contribute to the fund, which will be managed and administered at the Governor's discretion.

For more information about the CL&P assistance fund, call 2-1-1, or visit the Infoline web site at <http://www.infoline.org/referweb/landing.aspx>. Individuals can submit their information for the CL&P reimbursement fund on this website or they can call directly call 2-1-1.

In addition, CL&P has committed to waive late payment fees for its customers through the remainder of 2011 and arrange flexible payment programs for those customers who experienced losses and disruptions to their lives.

CL&P will also provide additional resources to help with residual tree-trimming and clean up, at no cost to cities and towns impacted by the October 29 storm.

In addition, to further enhance future storm response, Mr. Shivery has indicated to Governor Malloy that NU would pay for the hiring of an independent, third-party firm to conduct a more comprehensive review of the company's preparedness and response to the pre-Halloween snowstorm, and assist with the implementation of appropriate recommendations. This additional independent, third-party assessment would continue the examination of the utility response evaluation that is currently under way by former Federal Emergency Management Agency Director James Lee Witt. The firm to be hired would be selected after an open bidding process.

Restoration estimates are available for all 149 cities and towns served online at www.cl-p.com/stormcenter/estimates. Customers can also access restoration estimates by calling CL&P Customer Service at 800-286-2000.

Important Safety Reminders – Always assume any downed or hanging wire is live and dangerous. Stay at least 10 feet away and call 9-1-1 immediately to report a dangerous situation. In addition, the storm has led to an increasing number of customers using generators to power their homes and businesses.

CL&P reminds customers that if a generator is installed incorrectly to a home's wiring, it can cause power to "backfeed," or flow back into the power lines, creating a dangerous situation for the public and for our line crews who may be working nearby. To avoid this situation, have a qualified electrician connect the generator with a transfer switch, so that it is not connected directly to your home's wiring.

To avoid the accumulation of deadly carbon monoxide, only use a generator outdoors. Never use a generator indoors, in an attached garage, a basement, or a crawl space. Avoid using a generator in a partially enclosed inhabited space, even if it is ventilated; opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent carbon monoxide build-up. If placing it outdoors, make sure the generator is far from a home's doors, windows, and vents.

To report or check on an outage – Visit cl-p.com or call 800-286-2000. Our automated phone and online systems can rapidly process your report and help us speed restoration efforts. For helpful tips and news updates, go to our website at cl-p.com, follow us on Twitter @CTLightandPower and “like” us at Facebook.com/CTLightandPower. You can also get updates on outages in your town by texting “outage” and your zip code to 24612 (texting fees may apply).

CL&P’s Power Outage Map can be accessed at: <http://www.cl-p.com/outage/mobile.aspx>

UNITED ILLUMINATING UPDATE

Customers can call UI toll free at 1-800-722-5584 to report power outages.

FOOD STAMP (SNAP) ASSISTANCE

All SNAP (food stamps) recipients will be automatically granted a replacement benefit that equals 15% of the individual's October 2011 benefit. If recipient food losses were greater than 15% of the October 2011 benefit, you can complete the form on the 2-1-1 Infoline website by November 19, 2011 and an affidavit to report their losses will be mailed.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – DAILY SITUATION REPORT

Governor Dannel Malloy posts a daily “Situation Report” on the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security’s web site:

http://www.ct.gov/demhs/lib/demhs/weather/current_weather_updates/situation_report_20_winter_storm_11-2-11_0600_hrs.pdf

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed a series of widgets that includes links to vital information on how prepare for a disaster and, if applicable, apply for disaster assistance. These widgets can found at the following links - <http://www.fema.gov/help/widgets/>

A widget specifically designed for hurricane-related preparedness - <http://www.fema.gov/help/widgets/#2>

FEMA’s Blog provides the latest information on it is doing to prepare for, respond, and recover from the many disaster hazards - <http://blog.fema.gov/>

FEMA's mobile website makes it easier for smartphone users to access critical information regarding emergency preparedness and what to do in the event of a disaster - <http://m.fema.gov>

Other ways you can stay informed of FEMA's activities online are videos and podcasts w are available at www.fema.gov/medialibrary and www.youtube.com/fema; follow FEMA Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/fema> and on FaceBook at www.facebook.com/fema.

Report Damages to Homes & Businesses –Call 2-1-1

The State of Connecticut is urging residents to report damages to their homes or businesses to the state's free, emergency information line at 2-1-1 on online at www.211ct.org. Comprehensive damage reporting will help the state's request for the federal disaster declaration.

CT Department of Insurance – Winter Storm Alfred Insurance Claims

The Connecticut Department of Insurance (CID) is ready to help state residents who experienced damage to their homes related to Storm Alfred to document the damage to answer claims questions. Visit the CID web site at <http://www.ct.gov/cid/cwp/view.asp?Q=461660&A=3299> for information about winter storm insurance company claim phone numbers, find your insurance company, homeowner storm claims Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), tips for making storm claims, and a 90 day catastrophe licensing emergency adjuster license extension. The CID Customer Helpline is 1-800-203-3447.

STATE URGES FOOD/WATER SAFETY PRECAUTION DURING STORM RECOVERY

With thousands of households in the state without power, it is important to take precaution with food that has spoiled or water that has been contaminated. The Connecticut Department of Public Health is providing the following tips to stay healthy in the aftermath of this rare October storm:

When the Power Goes Out:

- Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to maintain the cold temperature.
- The refrigerator will keep food cold for about 4 hours if it is unopened.
- A full freezer will keep the temperature for approximately 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full) if the door remains closed.
- Wash fruits and vegetables with water from a safe source before eating.
- For infants, try to use prepared, canned baby formula that requires no added water. When using concentrated or powdered formulas, prepare with bottled water if the local water source is potentially contaminated.

Once Power is Restored:

- If an appliance thermometer was kept in the freezer, check the temperature when the power comes back on. If the freezer thermometer reads 40°F or below, the food is safe and may be refrozen.
- If a thermometer has not been kept in the freezer, check each package of food to determine its safety. You can't rely on appearance or odor. If the food still contains ice crystals or is 40 °F or below, it is safe to refreeze or cook.
- Refrigerated food should be safe as long as the power was out for no more than 4 hours and the refrigerator door was kept shut. Discard any perishable food (such as meat, poultry, fish, eggs or leftovers) that has been above 40°F for two hours or more.
- Keep in mind that perishable food such as meat, poultry, seafood, milk, and eggs that are not kept adequately refrigerated or frozen may cause illness if consumed, even when they are thoroughly cooked.

Carbone Monoxide Hazards During Power Outages – Safety Precautions:

Visit the CT Department of Emergency Management web site at:

http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/environmental_health/eoha/pdf/co_disasters.pdf

Safety Information for Generators:

Visit the CT Department of Emergency Management web site at:

http://www.ct.gov/demhs/lib/demhs/weather/current_weather_updates/generator_fact_sheet.pdf

Safety Information for Power Outages:

Visit the CT Department of Emergency Management web site at:

http://www.ct.gov/demhs/lib/demhs/weather/current_weather_updates/power_outage_safety.pdf

Social Media

Twitter - Office of Governor Dannel P. Malloy: [@GovMalloyOffice](#)

Twitter - CT Department of Emergency Service and Public Protection: [@CTDEMHS](#)

Twitter - Federal Emergency Management Agency: [@FEMA](#)

Twitter - Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region I [Serves CT]: [@FEMARegionI](#)

Twitter - Connecticut Red Cross: [@CTRedCross](#)

Twitter - Connecticut Light & Power: [@CTLightandPower](#)

Twitter - Northeast Utilities: [@NEUtilities](#)